

158 (1312). *MACROPYGIA TUSALIA* Hodgs.

Blanford, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 49.

Loi Un, Loi Salii range, 5600 ft., 6.1.02; Loi Maw, 6000 ft., 3.4.02.

Family PHASIANIDÆ.

159 (1352). *BAMBUSICOLA FYTCHII* Anders.

Blanford, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 110.

Ménétaung, 5000 ft., 23.1.02.

160 (1363). *ARBORICOLA RUFIGULARIS* Blyth.

Blanford, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 126.

Loi Un, Loi Salii range, 6000 ft., 3.1.01.

*161 (1367). *ARBORICOLA BRUNNEIPECTUS* Tick.

Blanford, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 128.

Loi Un, Loi Salii range, 4000 ft., 23.12.1900.

Family TURNICIDÆ.

162 (1382). *TURNIX PUGNAX* (Temm.).

Blanford, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 151.

Loi Maw, 6000 ft., 3.4.02.

Family RALLIDÆ.

*163 (1401). *AMAURORNIS PHŒNICURUS* (Penn.).

Blanford, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 173.

Ywangan State, 4000 ft., 31.1.02.

164 (1402). *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS* (Linn.).

Blanford, Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, iv. p. 175.

Yatsawk, 3000 ft., April 1900.

XLIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 431.]

107. *Arribalzaga on the Birds of Paraguay.*

[Apuntes criticos sobre las Aves del Paraguay descritas por el Señor A. de Winkelried Bertoni. Por Enrique Lynch Arribalzaga. An. Mus. Nac. Buenos Aires, vii.]

It appears that a young naturalist of Paraguay, Señor A. de Winkelried Bertoni, published at Asuncion in 1901, in a

periodical called 'Anales Cientificas Paraguayas' (of which we can find no copy in London), an article entitled "Aves nuevas del Paraguay." In it he gave descriptions of about 100 supposed new species of birds of Paraguay, and proposed no less than 23 new generic names for some of these novelties. Señor Arribalzaga's memoir contains a free criticism of M. Bertoni's article, and shews clearly that the latter must be absolutely unacquainted with the modern literature on the birds of Paraguay, and, indeed, with that on South-American birds in general. Señor Arribalzaga goes through Señor Bertoni's species, one after the other, and endeavours to shew upon what they were really based. We will not reprint any of the new generic and specific names proposed by M. Bertoni, as we do not wish to give further publicity to this unfortunate paper. The best thing that can happen is that its existence should be forgotten as soon as possible.

It is right to mention that our valued correspondent, Dr. H. v. Ihering, of São Paulo, sent us a critical review of M. Bertoni's paper last year, but that, for the reason just given, we thought it better not to publish it.

108. 'Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New series. Vol. I. Nos. 5-10. 1903.]

These six parts include, as usual, original papers from the pens of well-known Aviculturists on individual species or groups of birds, as well as reprints of articles interesting to the subscribers. A coloured plate is given in each part. The Rev. H. D. Astley writes on the only two living specimens of *Myiophonus temmincki* known to exist in Europe, Mr. W. H. St. Quintin records his success in hatching the egg of the Reeve, Mr. R. Kemp discusses the cage-birds of Sierra Leone, Mr. E. W. Harper the methods of bird-catching in India, and so forth.

But far the most important article, in our eyes, is that by Mr. D. Seth-Smith on the breeding of *Turnix tanki* in his aviaries, for he was able to ascertain that the rufous

nuchal collar of the female was completely lost in winter, when the plumage resembled that usually considered to belong to the immature bird; that the male alone incubated and tended the young; and that the period of incubation was only twelve days, or about half the time usual in game-birds. These are excellent results from a single experiment, and will very possibly hold universally in the genus *Turnix*. Moreover, we are informed that the rufous collar was discernible in a female chick 23 days old.

In part 5 Mr. W. P. Pycraft gives an admirable sketch of the "topography" of a bird, not only naming the different regions, but giving instructions for accurate measurements and descriptions. In the course of the article he takes care to make plain the meaning of "diastataxic," "eutaxic," "overlap," and other terms relating to the wing, while he also gives a complete glossary.

109. *Barrett-Hamilton on Birds' Legs in Flight.*

[On the Position occupied by the Legs of Birds during Flight. By G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton. *Zoologist*, 1903, pp. 139-149.]

The chief object of this paper is to point out that, although many birds carry their legs stretched out beneath the tail and many carry them bent forward, these members are not kept stationary in either position, but from time to time are called to the assistance of the bird when real work has to be done and difficulties have to be overcome, each foot acting independently of the other. Lists are given of various species according to the way in which the legs are carried.

110. *Butler on Cage-Birds.*

[Hints on Cage-Birds (British and Foreign). By Arthur G. Butler, Ph.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S. Illustrated. 8vo. London. 80 pp. Price 1s. 9d.]

Mr. Butler gives us a summary of the results of twenty-one years' study of cage-birds in a pamphlet which will form a most useful guide to the Aviculturist. The chapters on sexual differences and on the study of the habits of birds are of the most general interest.

111. 'Cassinia.'

[Cassinia, a Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia, no. vi. 1902. 66 pp. Price 50 cents.]

This periodical, as its title denotes, is chiefly concerned with the ornithology of a single district; but the Report on the Spring Migration of 1902 by Mr. Witmer Stone and the life of Edward Harris, a friend and companion of Cassin and Audubon, are matters of wider interest.

112. Coburn on a supposed British Goose.

[On a lost British Wild Goose, *Anser paludosus* (Strickland). By F. Coburn. Zoologist, 1902, pp 441-448, pl. iii.]

Mr. Coburn believes that he has rediscovered the Long-billed Carr-lag Goose (*Anser paludosus*) of Arthur Strickland. A bird procured by him from St. Abbs Head on Feb. 25th, 1896, can be distinguished from *A. segetum* by its great size, its enormously lengthened Swan-like neck, its large and also Swan-like feet, and its remarkably and distinctly shaped and coloured bill.

113. Degen on Ecdysis.

[Ecdysis, as Morphological Evidence of the original Tetradactyle Feathering of the Bird's Fore-limb, based especially on the perennial Molt in *Gymnorhina tibicen*. By Edward Degen. Trans. Zool. Soc. xvi. pt. 8, pp. 347-418, pls. xxxvi.-xxxviii.]

This is a complete description of the moult of the whole plumage of *Gymnorhina*, with minute measurements, chronological observations, and calculations, arranged in many tables and diagrams. It is a splendid "mémoire pour servir," and the goal which the author has set before himself is very ambitious, being nothing less than the reconstruction of the wing, with bones and quills complete, of the very first bird.

Few will doubt that this problematic creature was a descendant of some five-fingered reptile. But *Archæopteryx*, beyond which we cannot possibly speculate, had already reduced its hand to the three first fingers, which correspond with our own and those of recent birds. Now we are expected to believe, from the evidence of the moult of an Australian

Crow, that the missing fourth finger had its complement of quills, that these have survived past the *Archæopteryx*-stage, and have in recent birds slipped on to the ulna as part of the series of secondaries.

The hypothetical scheme works out as follows:—The primaries are nowadays composed of those originally carried by the phalanges of the third finger (primaries 1–5) and those of the phalanges of the index (6–11). Those which originally belonged to the third metacarpal, those of the missing phalanges and equally missing metacarpal of the fourth finger, now form the 1–4th, 5–7th, and 8–11th cubitals; and, should there be more than 10 cubitals, this surplus alone belongs to the original ulnar feathering. The quills of the alula are those of the first metacarpal, behave as such in their moult, and are in reality not primaries.

Undoubtedly the moult is a much more complicated process than has been hitherto suspected, and the same applies, to a still greater extent, to the evolution of the “wing,” with its many disturbances, suppressions, and readjustments; but it is a long and dangerous flight of imagination from a Piping Crow to the ancestors of *Archæopteryx*.—H. G.

114. *Dresser's 'Manual of Palearctic Birds.'*

[A Manual of Palearctic Birds. By H. E. Dresser, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Part II. London, 1903. Price 12s. 6d. net.]

In our notice of the first portion of this book (*suprà*, p. 252) we have expressed our opinion on its merits in a very decided way, and the second and concluding portion (containing pp. 499–922) gives us no reason to alter our views. It is a most useful and careful piece of work, and will be much appreciated by all students of Palearctic birds, amongst whom may, probably, be included nearly all the members of our Union. We therefore strongly recommend it to their notice.

In the first part Mr. Dresser gave an account of the Passeres, Picariæ, and Striges, which, according to his views, comprise 709 species. The remaining Orders from the Accipitres to the Pygopodes are dealt with in the

present part, and consist of 510 species, so that the total number of species of the Palearctic avifauna in the present work is 1219. To make a comparison, the last edition of the 'Check-list' of North-American birds enumerates about 780 species. Moreover, although Mr. Dresser in some cases admits subspecies under trinomial names, he does not carry this practice to anything like the extent that is usual in America. The mode of treatment has, therefore, rather unduly increased the number of Nearctic species when compared with those of the Palearctic Region. Again, there still remains a large extent of unexplored country in the mountains of China and other parts of Asia which is likely to produce a certain number of new species. But our energetic friends on the other side of the Atlantic have so thoroughly worked out every hole and corner of North America that little more in the way of new species can be expected to be found there. The great northern region of the Old World is, therefore, certainly much richer in bird-life than the corresponding region of the New World.

In the present work Mr. Dresser has followed pretty closely the classification adopted in the 'Birds of Europe.' He has wisely cut his synonymy rather short, the book being primarily intended for the use of field-naturalists and travellers. But native names and references to leading authorities are always added. It will also be observed that the extreme subdivision of genera and species, now so much in vogue, has not been followed in this 'Manual.' In his preface Mr. Dresser well remarks that "the endless manufacture of subspecies, often based on very trifling differences in tint, is calculated rather to puzzle and discourage than to assist the beginner." We may add that the "subdivisional" mode of treatment occasionally produces the same effect even on the practised naturalist!

115. '*The Emu.*'

[The Emu, a Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Official Organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Vol. II. 1903, pts. 3, 4, pls. vii.-xii. (one coloured).]

These two parts of our contemporary (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1903,

p. 118) include an account of the Melbourne Congress of the Union, with an address by the President (Col. W. V. Legge) on the advance of Ornithology in Australia—the meeting having been followed by a “camp-out” excursion to the Mutton Bird “rookeries” on Phillip Island in Bass Strait—and a Report for 1901–2, mainly concerned with the efforts of the Council to induce the Governments of the various States to extend the protection afforded to native birds.

Apart from articles chiefly of local interest, Mr. D. le Souef continues his important paper on birds' eggs from the Port Darwin district, in which he describes those of *Pseudogerygone brunneipectus*, *P. lavigastra*, *P. chloronota*, and *Zosterops gulliveri* for the first time, and draws attention to the extraordinary extent of the breeding-season, which, as is truly said (p. 174), seems in North Queensland to last throughout the whole year. The same author follows with a discussion of the change of colour of plumage without moult in certain birds; but it should be noticed that he does not give instances of a single feather changing colour, but only of different feathers gradually producing lighter tints in the progress of a bird to maturity. Mr. R. Hall writes on “Colour Reversion in Kingfishers' Eggs,” and Mr. A. J. Campbell on the Protection of Native Birds.

Four, or possibly five, new species are described, viz.:—*Melithreptus leucogenys* and *Calamanthus montanellus* from the Stirling Ranges, W.A.; *Megalurus striatus* from Lake Yanchep, W.A.; *Acanthiza magnirostris* and *A. rufifrons* (?) from King Island, Bass Strait.

From the shorter notices we learn that the male Lyre-bird incubates, that young Harriers (*Circus gouldi*) of very different ages have been found in the same nest, and that the Tooth-billed Bower-bird is a particularly clever mimic.

In a Review of the Catalogue of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum a doubt is raised as to the identification of the egg of the Australian Dotterel there figured.

As the Editors of ‘The Ibis’ so fully recognise the good work that is being done by Australian Ornithologists,

perhaps they may be pardoned in conclusion for expressing their feeling that 'The Emu' is at present being conducted on somewhat too popular lines.

116. *Figgins on the Food-birds of the Eskimos.*

[Some Food-birds of the Eskimos of North-west Greenland. By J. D. Figgins. Abstr. Proc. Linn. Soc. New York, Nos. 13, 14, pp. 61-65.]

The author shews that the Eskimos of North Greenland use the flesh of birds for food in very large quantities. Whenever there is a shortage of Seals and Walruses, which often occurs, the natives, who are purely carnivorous, depend almost entirely on birds. The species usually utilized are the Dovekie (*Alca alle*), Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), and the Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), but Puffins and Eider Ducks are also much prized. Mr. Figgins describes in an interesting manner the various modes in which the natives catch the birds.

117. *Finsch on the Honey-guides.*

[Zur Catalogisirung der ornithologischen Abtheilung. Von Dr. O. Finsch. X. *Indicatoridee*. Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 162-179.]

The tenth of Dr. Finsch's series of notes on the birds of the Leyden Museum is devoted to the Indicatoridæ, which are there represented by 26 examples referable to 8 species. Dr. Finsch reviews the whole of the described forms, which consist of 16 species of *Indicator*, 1 of *Melignomon*, and 4 of *Protodiscus*. But, as will be seen by his remarks, many of these supposed species are more or less doubtful, and much has yet to be done before our knowledge of this interesting group can be considered at all satisfactory.

Indicator willcocksii of Alexander, we may remark, has now been more fully described and figured (see *Ibis*, 1902, p. 364, pl. viii.).

118. *Finsch on some new Hornbills.*

[1. Ueber einen neuen Nashornvogel der Gattung *Penelopides*. Von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxii. pp. 190-194.

2. Ueber die Arten der Bucerotiden Gattung *Ortholophus* Grant. Von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 195-205.]

During his recent examination of the specimens of Hornbills in the Leyden Museum Dr. Finsch has found examples of two new species. One of them is a representative form, from Northern Luzon, of the Philippine genus *Penelopides*, proposed to be called *P. talisi*. The other belongs to the African genus *Ortholophus*, and has hitherto been confounded with *P. albocristatus*. Dr. Finsch has named it *O. cassini*. It comes from Gaboon and Cameroon.

119. *Fuerbringer on the Genealogy of Birds.*

[Beitrag zur Genealogie und Systematik der Voegel. By Max Fuerbringer. Jenaische Zeitschrift f. Naturwiss. xxxvi. (1902) pp. 587-736.]

Fourteen years have elapsed since Professor Fuerbringer's two gigantic volumes 'Untersuchungen zur Morphologie und Systematik der Voegel' were issued. In 1902 he published in the 'Jenaische Zeitschrift' a condensed account of that monumental work, and the present 'Beitrag' of 150 pages is a reprint of the genealogical and systematic observations. It contains an additional list of almost everything that has been written on the subject since 1888; not exactly a bibliography, since only the names of the authors, with date, and one or two catchwords concerning the organs and groups of birds described, are mentioned. The importance of the present work lies in the fact that the discussions of the systematic position and the mutual affinities of the various groups, have been brought up to date, but it is almost entirely an historical review, with only here and there a definite criticism of what has been done since 1888. The result is that, with a few slight modifications, the author stands by his system, as elaborated in his great work.

There is a long disquisition on the "Ratite question." They are a polyphyletic assembly, and are now divided into two groups—"LONGI-HUMERALES," viz. *Struthio* and *Rhea*, which are the oldest, and are derived, independently, from somewhere out of the Order Pelargornithes, and BREVI-HUMERALES: *Casuarii*, *Epyornithes*, and *Apterygiformes*. On p. 670 we are told that the Apteryges and Dinornithes have really very little in common with the Ralli, but that their

nearest relations are the Crypturi. At first sight it is not easy to understand how this categorical statement is to be reconciled with the equally emphatic rejection of the "Palæognathæ," but the combination of the Ratitæ with the Crypturi *versus* all the other Carinatae is on p. 672 rightly dismissed as "a quite extraordinary overestimation of the taxonomic value of the palatognathous apparatus." The Brevi-humerales are traced towards the stock of the Gallatores in the wider sense, an Order, for which the terrible name "Kolobathrornithes" has been invented; this Order comprising the three suborders Charadrii-, Gruï-, and Ralli-formes.

The combination of Pici and Passeres is vehemently upheld.

There is a final chapter on the relation of birds to other Vertebrata, with the comforting conclusion that the pro-avine ancestor was not a dinosaur, crocodile, turtle, or lizard, but some other reptile, name unknown. We must bear in mind that the author, with his extensive morphological experience and absolutely unique knowledge of the literature, is the very man who, if he would but brace himself to do away with the many "intermediary" groups and other subterfuges, could give us by far the best system ever produced.—II. G.

120. *Goeldi on the Destruction of Birds in Amazonia.*

[Against the Destruction of White Herons and Red Ibises on the Lower Amazon, especially on the Island of Marajó. By Prof. Dr. Emil A. Goeldi, C.M.Z.S. Translated from the Portuguese into English by Wm. H. Clifford. 8vo. Pará, 1902.]

This is a translation into English of a vigorous appeal made by our friend Dr. Goeldi to the Governor and Legislature of the State of Pará in 1890, and repeated in 1895, to take some steps to stop the slaughter of the White Herons and other birds carried on by the "plume-hunters" on the Lower Amazon. "Must hundreds of thousands of Herons perish every year," he says, to trim ladies' bonnets in the United States and France? "Let the ladies put something else in their hats." Dr. Goeldi maintains: (1) that the killing of Herons and Ibises during the breeding-season should be rendered illegal; (2) that the nesting-places of

these birds both on private property and on public ground should be made inviolable; (3) that prohibitive export-duties should be laid on the feathers of Herons and Ibises. The State Legislature of Pará appears to have got rid of this unpleasant appeal by handing it over to the Municipal Council of the Island of Marajó. But, as Dr. Goeldi points out, it would be of little use to stop the slaughter in Marajó if it is permitted elsewhere, and he demands that restrictive measures should be applied to the whole State of Pará. We hope that our excellent friend will not relax his efforts in so good a cause.

121. *Goeldi and Hagmann's List of Amazonian Birds.*

[*Aves Amazonicas. Lista das aves indicadas como provenientes de Amazonia nos 27 volumes de 'Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum,' de Londres (1874-1898). Bol. Mus. Paraense, vol. iii. 1902. 53 pp.*]

As described in the title, this is a List of the birds mentioned in the 27 volumes of the 'Catalogue of Birds' as being found in Amazonia. It contains the names of 1156 species, and short indications of the locality and authority for each of them. It will be very useful for reference to all who are working at the great Avifauna of Amazonia, and especially to Dr. Hagmann himself, who is now engaged in cataloguing the specimens in the Museum of Pará.

122. *Hagmann on his Visit to Mexiana.*

[*Ein ornithologischer Streifzug durch den Campo der Insel Mexiana (Amazonas). Von Dr. Phil. Gottfried Hagmann aus Basel. Schweiz. Ornith. Blätter, xxvi. No. 23.*]

The island of Mexiana, in the mouth of the Amazon, is classical ground to the ornithologist, having been visited by Wallace in 1848, and described in his well-known work. Dr. Hagmann has recently made an excursion to it from Pará, where he is Assistant in the Goeldi Museum, and gives us a short account of the wonders of its bird-life. Ibises, Storks, Herons, and waterfowl of all kinds swarm in its lagoons, while many interesting land-birds are abundant.

123. *Hartert and Hellmayr on the Genus Masius.*

[Ueber die Pipriden-Gattung *Masius* Bp. Von Ernst Hartert und Carl Hellmayr. Ornithol. Monatsb. 1903, pp. 33-35.]

Two species of this genus of pretty little Piprine birds are usually recognised—*Masius chrysopterus* from Colombia, and *M. coronulatus* from Ecuador. The authors now propose to divide the latter into two subspecies—*M. chrysopterus coronulatus* from Western Ecuador, and *M. chrysopterus bellus*, subsp. nova, from Antioquia. There are some grounds for such a proceeding (as has been already pointed out), though they are slight. But we are quite unable to understand why it is proposed to degrade *M. chrysopterus*, which the authors themselves acknowledge to be quite distinct from both of the others, to the rank of a subspecies.

124. *Harvie-Brown on the Birds of the Hebrides.*

[On the Avifauna of the Outer Hebrides, 1888-1902. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. Reprinted from Annals of Scot. Nat. Hist. 1902-1903.]

We are always glad to receive papers which keep us in touch with the changes that are taking place, or the new discoveries that are made, in the Avifauna of any district, and to British ornithologists the islands of Scotland invariably provide matter of much interest from time to time. Mr. Harvie-Brown here gives all the information that he has been able to gather, since 1888, as to the birds of the Outer Hebrides, full details being thus added to the shorter record already published in our pages ('Ibis,' 1902, pp. 275-278). In the two papers we have a most satisfactory account of the Avifauna up to date, and we hope that similar articles on other areas of Scotland will appear in the 'Annals' before long.

125. *Hose on the Birds of Northern Celebes.*

[List of Birds collected in Northern Celebes. By Charles Hose, D.Sc., Resident in the Baram District, Sarawak. Ornith. xii. p. 77 (1902-03).]

Dr. Hose made an excursion to Northern Celebes in

October 1895, and spent most of his time on Mount Masurang, especially at Rurukan, a village situated at an elevation of 4000 feet on the mountain, where he found excellent collecting-ground for his "Dayak hunters." His principal object was to procure small mammals, but he also obtained examples of 132 species of birds. Celebes has been well worked, and none of the species are new, though many are of interest. Good details are given concerning the nesting of *Megapodius cumingi*.

126. *Hudson on Hampshire Birds.*

[Hampshire Days. By W. H. Hudson. 1 vol. 8vo, 344 pp. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1903. Price 10s. 6d. net.]

All members of our Union and other lovers of Nature will welcome this new book from the pen of Mr. Hudson, although it may not be strictly ornithological. On the present occasion its subject appeals strongly to our sympathies, for the County of Southampton comprehends the New Forest and Selborne—two of the most interesting districts in England to the lover of birds; and Mr. Hudson specially calls our attention to these localities. Though animals of all sorts and many other matters are spoken of in the present volume, birds, as in most of Mr. Hudson's writings, form a prominent topic. Of special interest is the careful description of the process of ejection from the nest by the new-born Cuckoo of the eggs and young of the legitimate owners, and of the way in which they leave their own young to perish, while their whole attention is absorbed by their greedy foster-child. Of course, as we all know, this has been observed before, but it is good to have confirmation of these acts from the eyes of such a reliable witness.

We need not say more about this attractive volume, except that we advise all our bird-loving friends to read and digest it. The illustrations, mostly by well-known pencils, are good and appropriate.

127. *Kolthoff on the Migration of Marsh-birds.*

[Zur Herbstwanderung der nordischen Sumpfvögel über die Insel Öland. Von Gustav Kolthoff. Festschrift für Lilljeborg, pp. 123-136. Upsala, 1896.]

The author of this paper discusses the spring migration of northern Marsh-birds, as observed at the south point of the Island of Öland, which he finds to be a very good station, since two lines of flight seem to converge towards the district. After treating of the various species separately, he gives a table of the observations from June to October, with the time of day at which the occurrences took place. There were comparatively few in the first and last month.

128. *Lorenz-Liburnau on Birds from New Zealand.*

[Zur Ornithologie Neuseelands. Vom Custos L. V. Lorenz-Liburnau. Sep.-Abdr. v. d. xvii. Bande Ann. d. k.-k. Naturh. Hofmus. Wien, 1902.]

This is the first part of an account of the valuable addition made in 1891 to the Vienna Museum by the acquisition of the collection of birds formed in New Zealand and the adjacent islands by the late Andreas Reischek. Reischek went out to New Zealand in 1877 as taxidermist to the Christchurch Museum, and subsequently made numerous voyages and excursions to every part of New Zealand and its islands. In 1889 he returned to Europe, and, after depositing his ethnographical and zoological collections at Vienna, retired to his native place, Linz, and became Custos of the Upper Austrian Land-Museum in that city. His name and the observations made by him are of frequent occurrence in Sir Walter Buller's works on the birds of New Zealand, and he was the author of several papers on birds in the 'Transactions of the New Zealand Institute.'

The present portion of Dr. v. Lorenz's memoir contains an account of about 50 species, extending from the Passeres to the Pigeons, with exact dates and localities of the specimens and many important remarks. *Anthus novæ-zealandiæ reischeki*, from the North Island, *A. n.-z. chathamensis* from Chatham Island, and *A. n.-z. steindachneri* from Antipodes Island, are separated as new subspecies. *Nesierax* is a new

name proposed in place of *Harpa*, previously used in conchology. Amongst the rarer birds mentioned as obtained by Reischek are *Pogonornis cincta*, now supposed to be extinct (10 specimens), and the lately described *Miro dannefaerdi*, from the Snares Islands. A coloured plate contains figures of *Pseudogerygone sylvestris* and of the heads of two species of *Bowdleria* and of two species of *Anthus*.

129. Lorenz and Hellmayr on South-Arabian Birds.

[Ein Beitrag zur Ornithologie Südarabiens. Von Dr. L. v. Lorenz und C. E. Hellmayr. Denkschr. Ak. Wiss. Wien, lxxi. 1902.]

The authors now give us a more complete account of the interesting collection of birds made by Mr. Bury in Hadramaut, Southern Arabia, already described in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1901 (pp. 231-245)*, and add the field-notes of the Collector, as also an account of another collection made by Frau Dr. W. Hein in the district of Gischin, which contains 44 skins referable to 12 species.

Altogether the list contains the names of 62 species, three of which (*Fringillaria arabica*, *Zosterops arabs*, and *Nectarinia muelleri*) are figured in the accompanying plate. The occurrence of an example of *Turdus atrigularis* at Yeshbum (4.1.00) is remarkable.

130. Madarász on the Birds of Hungary.

[Magyarország Madarai &c. Von Dr. Madarász Gyula. Auszug in Deutscher Sprache. Budapest, 1899-1903. 1 vol., 666 pp.]

We have been favoured with a copy of Dr. Madarász's volume on the birds of Hungary, which is now complete. Being intended mainly for Hungarians it is written in their language, but an abstract in German, which is appended, enables us to obtain a good idea of its contents.

The materials for the book are mainly taken from the great collection of Hungarian birds in the National Museum at Budapest (under the author's charge), which contains

* See also Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's comments on the subject, 'Ibis,' 1901, p. 518.

more than 5000 specimens of the birds of Hungary and of the adjoining Crown lands of Croatia and Slavonia. So nearly perfect is this series that only 16 out of the 364 species of Hungarian birds fail to be represented in it, and these are mostly *unica* of other museums or private collections.

In 1881 the author published his 'Systematische Aufzählung der Vögel Ungarns,' in which 345 names were included, some of them of doubtful species. The present work, as already mentioned, gives us an account of 364 species belonging to the Hungarian Avifauna, of which 87 are constant residents and 151 are known to breed in Hungary. The winter-visitors are 24, the more or less regular passing visitors 46, and the accidental visitors 46. The arrangement and nomenclature used by Dr. Madarász follow generally those of the British Museum Catalogue. Homonyms are employed throughout.

Amongst the rarer stragglers enumerated in the present work we observe *Linaria exilipes* (Coues), *L. brevirostris* (Bp.), *Melanocorypha sibirica* (Gm.), *Budytes taiwanus* Swinhoe, *Ruticilla mesoleuca* (Hempr. et Ehr.), *Buteo zimmermannæ* Ehmecke, *Anthropoides virgo*, and *Somateria mollissima*.

Phæoparus is proposed as a new subgeneric term for *Parus palustris* and its allies, and the southern form of *Glaucidium passerinum* is named *G. setipes*.

Besides numerous figures in the text there are 9 plates, one of which (by Keulemans) illustrates the somewhat problematical *Buteo zimmermannæ*.

131. Madarász on a new Asiatic Warbler.

[Vorläufiges über einen neuen Rohrsänger (*Luscinola mimica*). Von Dr. Julius von Madarász. Budapest, 1903. 2 pp.]

Dr. v. Madarász's *Luscinola mimica* will be an interesting species to Palearctic ornithologists, if future researches should result in confirming its distinctness from *L. melanopygon*, of which it is stated to be the eastern representative. Its coloration, however, is nearly similar to that of *Calamodyta phragmitis*. Six examples of this supposed new species

were transmitted to the National Museum at Budapest by its collector Hürms, who obtained them at various localities in Transcaasia and Eastern Persia.

132. *Meyer on new Birds from Celebes.*

[Neue Vögel von Celebes. Von A. B. Meyer. Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 185-189 (1903).]

Dr. A. B. Meyer here shortly describes the novelties in the collection of birds made by the two Sarasins during their second expedition to Celebes. Altogether 74 specimens were obtained, which are referable to 57 species. Of these the following 6 are described as new :—*Microstictus intermedius*, *Meropogon forsteni centralis*, *Siphia hoevelli*, *Graucalus temmincki tondeanus*, *Acrocephalus orientalis celebensis*, and *Ptilopus centralis*.

Dr. Meyer is contemplating the publication of a new general work on the birds of Celebes.

133. *North on the Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds.*

[Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania. By A. J. North. Part III. Sydney, 1903.]

We have received from the Trustees of the Australian Museum the third part of Mr. North's account of the nests and eggs of Australian Birds, the two former instalments of which we have already noticed (see 'Ibis,' 1902, pp. 156, 666). In the present section of this excellent work the breeding-habits of numerous Australian members of the family Muscipidæ are discussed at length, while their nests and eggs are accurately described, and illustrated by figures in the text and by accompanying plates. The work does great credit both to the author (one of the new Colonial Members of the B. O. U.) and to the artist, Mr. Neville Cayley, who is responsible for the illustrations.

134. *Salvadori on Birds from Annobom and Fernando Po.*

[(1) Contribuzioni alla Ornitologia delle isole del Golfo di Guinea.—III. Uccelli di Annobom e di Fernando Po. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Extr. Mem. Acc. Sc. Torino, ser. 2, vol. liii. Torino, 1903.]

(2) Caratteri di due nuove specie di Uccelli di Fernando Po. [Per] Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. Mus. d. Zool. e Anat. comp. d. R. Univ. Torino, xviii. No. 442, 1903.]

The first of these papers concludes Count Salvadori's memoir on the birds of the four islands in the Gulf of Guinea (see above, p. 429) by an account of what is known of the ornithology of Annobom and Fernando Po. In Annobom Sig. Fea obtained 49 specimens of birds, which are referred by Count Salvadori to 8 species. Two of these, *Scops fea* and *Haplopelia hypoleuca*, are described as new. The author reviews the known species of Annobom, including those added by Sig. Fea's researches, and shews them to be 16 in all, among which are 4 restricted to this island, so far as is at present known.

In Fernando Po, Sig. Fea suffered from bad health and was not so successful, having obtained only two specimens of *Xylobucco scolopaceus*. But in order to complete his subject Count Salvadori reviews all the work that has been done on the ornithology of this island up to the time of writing the present paper, and shews that 146 species had been recorded up to that date. As regards Capt. Alexander's recent discoveries, Count Salvadori had only the short diagnoses of new species issued in the Bulletin of the B. O. C. before him, and not Capt. Alexander's complete account published in the last number of this Journal. A very useful tabular comparative statement of the birds of the four islands concludes an excellent memoir.

The second paper contains short diagnoses of two new species from Fernando Po (*Speirops brunnea* and *Turdinus bocagei*) without further information.

135. *Slater's Birds of South Africa.*

[The Fauna of South Africa. The Birds of South Africa. By W. L. Slater, M.A., F.Z.S., Director of the South African Museum, Cape Town. Vol. III. London: R. H. Porter, 1903. Price 21s. net.]

At the time of his sad death at Ladysmith, Stark had finished his rough MS. for the second volume of the present work (see 'Ibis,' 1902, p. 161), but had not commenced the

third. For this volume, therefore, Mr. W. L. Selater is solely responsible, although he has had the advantage of consulting Stark's notebooks and journals, and has made good use of them.

The third volume of the 'Birds of South Africa' has been drawn up on exactly the same lines as the first and second. It contains an account of the Picarions, Parrots, Owls, and Hawks of Africa south of the Zambesi, which number altogether some 183 species. The text is illustrated by 141 figures drawn, with very few exceptions, by Mr. Grönvold specially for this work.

A fourth volume, now in an advanced state of preparation, will finish the work, but it must not be supposed that our knowledge of the birds of the vast country treated of is by any means complete. There are enormous areas, especially in the north and east of South Africa, almost untouched by the ornithologist, and the present work constitutes merely a basis upon which further information on the subject may be built.

136. *Scott's 'Story of a Bird-lover.'*

[The Story of a Bird-lover. By William Earl Dodge Scott. New York: The Outlook Company, 1903. 1 vol. 8vo. 372 pp.]

This is one of the most interesting books to the ornithologist that we have met with for a long time. It contains an account of the life and adventures of Prof. W. E. D. Scott, of Princeton, one of the most active and experienced field-naturalists of North America, and author of many excellent papers on American Birds, of which a list is given in the Appendix. Mr. Scott was evidently devoted to birds in his childhood, and has been fortunate in passing the greater part of his life in contact with them. At Harvard he studied under the direction of Louis Agassiz, Prof. Shaler, Dr. Wyman, and Mr. Allen, all names well known to us in Europe, and was one of the original members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club—the parent, so to speak, of the A. O. U. After other experiences in observing and collecting, Mr. Scott obtained in 1874 a post as Curator of

the Museum of Zoology at Princeton College, New Jersey, which we believe he holds at the present moment, although he has only recently returned to it after some years of wanderings elsewhere. During this interval the plains of Colorado, the coast-lands of Florida, and the deserts of Southern Arizona have alike become familiar to him, so that few individuals can be better acquainted with the varied features of the Nearctic Ornis than our author. This, indeed, will be at once apparent to those who read Prof. Scott's lively account of his adventures in the above-mentioned and other specially selected collecting-spots. Mr. Scott also passed several months in Jamaica in 1890, and gave his brother ornithologists of Europe the pleasure of his company in the spring of 1900, his special object being to examine the South-American specimens in the British Museum for a work on the birds of Patagonia, upon which he is now engaged. But we invite all the readers of 'The Ibis' to peruse Prof. Scott's ornithological adventures for themselves, and not to be content with the mere outline of them contained in our notice of his most attractive volume. Above all, let them mark the account of the ravages caused by the odious "plume-hunters" in the heronries of Florida, as personally witnessed by Prof. Scott, who found "vast piles of carcasses of the dead parents stripped of their beautiful plumes lying about, and thousands of young birds left to starve to death in misery in their nests."

137. *Seth-Smith's 'Parrakeets.'*

[Parrakeets: being a practical Handbook to those Species kept in Captivity. By David Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Parts 3-5. Pp. 81-216, 10 pls. London: R. H. Porter, 1902-1903. Price 6s. per part, net.]

In these parts the author continues his account (*cf. supra*, p. 131) of the various species of Parrakeets, with notes on their habits, either as observed in captivity or as recorded by those who have met with the birds in their native haunts. The description of the nesting-habits of *Agapornis roseicollis* is especially noteworthy. The genera treated are *Brotojerays*,

Tanygnathus, *Palæornis*, *Polytelis*, *Spathopterus*, *Ptistes*, *Aprosmictus*, *Pyrrohulopsis*, *Psittinus*, *Agapornis*, *Loriculus*, *Platycercus*, *Porphyrocephalus*, *Barnardius*, *Psephotus*, and *Neophema*. The coloured figures are of *Brotogeris virescens*, *B. tui*, *Palæornis caniceps*, *P. nicobarica*, *Polytelis barra-bandi*, *Loriculus sclateri*, *L. chrysonotus*, *Platycercus elegans*, *P. flaveolus*, *P. browni*, *Barnardius barnardi*, *B. zonarius*, *Psephotus xanthorrhous*, *P. hæmatorrhous*, *P. chrysopterygius*, and *P. multicolor*.

138. Sherborn's 'Index Animalium.'

[Index Animalium sive Index nominum quæ ab A.D. MDCLLVIII. generibus et speciebus Animalium imposita sunt Societatibus Eruditorum adjuvantibus a Carolo Davies Sherborn confectus. Sectio prima, a Kalendis Januariis MDCLLVIII. usque ad finem Decembris MDCCC. Cantabrigiæ e Typographico Academico. MDCCCCL. 8vo. Pp. lix+1195. Price 25s. net.]

This is not a specially ornithological book, but, when complete, will be very useful to workers in every branch of zoology; it is, in fact, a dictionary of the names of all animals whether generic or specific. Darwin was so convinced of the necessity of such a work for botanists, that he left a sum of money to be employed in compiling what is now known as the 'Index Kewensis,' which contains an alphabetical list of the names of plants and references to their descriptions. Mr. Sherborn proposes to bestow the same favour on his brother zoologists, and the present volume is the first instalment. The 'Index Zoologicus' will contain a complete list of all the generic and specific names applied to animals since 1758, when Linnæus inaugurated the binomial system, with dates and references. Acting under the advice of a Committee of the British Association, Mr. Sherborn has divided his work into three portions. The first of these, now published by the Cambridge University Press, contains all the names proposed by zoologists from January 1st, 1758, to the end of December, 1800, and will be found most useful and accurate so far as it goes. The energetic author is now hard at work on the second division, which will contain the names given during the first half of the last century, to which

a third division relating to the zoological work of the years 1851 to 1901 will ultimately be added.

139. *Stone on Birds from Sumatra.*

[A Collection of Birds from Sumatra, obtained by Alfred C. Harrison, Jun., and Dr. H. M. Hiller. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1902, pp. 670-691.]

This is a catalogue of a collection of birds made at several localities in Sumatra by Mr. A. C. Harrison, Jun., and Dr. H. M. Hiller, which was presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The collection contains examples of 138 species, mostly well-known forms. Having under his charge in the Wilson Collection (received from Verreaux) what is supposed to be the typical specimen of *Trichostoma umbratile* of Strickland (Contr. Orn. 1849, p. 128), which is usually held to be the same as *T. rostratum* Blyth, Mr. Stone, with the assent of Dr. C. W. Richmond, pronounces it not to be a *Trichostoma* at all, but identical with *Rhinomyias pectoralis* Salvad. Knowing, however, the accuracy of Strickland's work and the careless manner in which many of the specimens which passed through the Maison Verreaux in former days were labelled, we should be disposed to doubt this identification, unless it were confirmed on examination of the typical specimens of *Napothera umbratilis* Temm. in the Leyden Museum.

A subspecies of *Rhinomyias*, based on specimens obtained by Dr. Abbott on the coast of Sumatra, is characterized as *R. umbratilis richmondi*.

We may say, in conclusion, that we are among those who still "believe in the propriety of ignoring names which are geographically misleading," and should not be disposed to adopt as the title of a Bornean Kingfisher "*Pelargopsis capensis javana*"! Truth, in our opinion, is more important than priority!

140. *Strong on the Colour of Feathers.*

[The Development of Colour in the Definitive Feather. By R. M. Strong. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard College, xl. pp. 147-185 & pls. 1-9 (1902).]

This paper trenches too much upon histology to make it

possible for us to give a full analysis of it, but the summary of results should certainly be carefully studied by all interested in the subject, and compared with those of other writers. We often have to draw attention to the full and accurate work of our American cousins in articles of this description, while here the details are illustrated by nine excellent plates of sections of feather-germs and parts of the feather. Mr. Strong does not consider that the question of change of colour without moult can be properly studied apart from a thorough consideration of the causes of colour and its development, and he therefore conducts us afresh through the details of both these processes, on the strength of material obtained from specimens of *Sterna hirundo*, the Common Dove, *Megascops asio*, and various Passeres, his conclusion being "that there is no satisfactory evidence of a process of repigmentation, and that the histological conditions of the feather render such a process highly improbable."

141. *Strong on the Study of Variation.*

[A Quantitative Study of Variation in the smaller North-American Shrikes. By R. M. Strong. *American Nat.* xxxv. pp. 271-298 (1901).]

This elaborate article attempts to apply the "Precise Criticism of Species" of Davenport ('*Science*,' n. s. vii. p. 685) to *Lanius ludovicianus* and its races *excubitoroides* and *gambeli*, 294 specimens of which were obtained for the purpose from the United States, Mexico, and South Canada. The characters taken into consideration, and for the most part expressed in "frequency polygons," are:—Length of wing, tail, and bill; depth of bill; colour of top of head, upper tail-coverts, and breast; while the curvature of the bill is measured in 47 individuals by an ingenious method of ascertaining the angle between certain chosen lines.

The relative variability of the different characters in different geographical areas is thus made evident; and the author asks us to consider whether it is worth while encumbering nomenclature with the names of races based on such slight variations, since the process of "splitting" could be carried on *ad infinitum* by a well-trained eye. We are

quite in agreement with his remark that "it seems highly desirable that the question of limiting the establishment of new subspecies or varieties by some generally accepted criteria be considered"; but the difficulty of so doing lies, of course, in the words "generally accepted."

142. *Ussher on Irish Birds.*

[The Bird Fauna of Ireland as affected by its Geography. By R. J. Ussher. Rep. Brit. Assoc. 1902, pp. 658-660.]

In this article Mr. Ussher gives a useful summary of the effect of the geographical character of Ireland on the distribution of its birds and on their occurrence in the country. Isolated mountains and abundance of lakes are important factors in the distribution, while the lack of manufactures in many places, and the absence of persecution of birds, apart from game, conduce greatly to the preservation of rare species.

Though the Common Buzzard, the Capercaillie, and the Bittern are no longer to be found in the island, and Eagles, Harriers, the Red-throated Diver, and so forth are now extremely rare, the Mistletoe-Thrush, Crossbill, Starling, Magpie, Shoveler, Redshank, and Woodcock have decidedly increased—not to mention other species—while the abundance of suitable haunts make Waders, Ducks, Grebes, and more particularly cliff-birds, exceptionally plentiful.

The Irish coasts bear a certain resemblance as regards their avifauna to those of Scotland, while the Common Gull and the Red-breasted Merganser here find their most southern breeding-quarters.

Mr. Ussher also discusses the routes of migration of birds with respect to Ireland.

143. *Wiglesworth on St. Kilda Birds.*

[St. Kilda and its Birds. A Lecture delivered before the Liverpool Biological Society on an Ornithological Expedition to the Island in the Summer of 1902. By J. Wiglesworth. Reprinted from the Trans. Liverpool Biological Soc. 8vo. Liverpool, 1903. 69 pp., 5 pls. Price 2s.]

Many books and articles have been written on St. Kilda and

its Ornithology, but the present pamphlet cannot be said to be superfluous, for we are much pleased with the clear and life-like description of the island and its inhabitants, their methods of fowling, collecting eggs, and so forth. The account of the capture of a Great Auk about 1840 is once more given from the lips of the grandson of one of the men concerned, and a complete list of the birds of St. Kilda is appended, to which the White Wagtail is an addition. A new breeding-station of the Fork-tailed Petrel was discovered by Mr. Wigglesworth on Levenish, but it is with the greatest regret that we find corroboration of the large numbers of its eggs (300-400) that are taken annually by the natives.

144. *Winge on the Fossil Birds of Denmark.*

[Om jordfundne Fugle fra Danmark. Af Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Meddel. fra den Naturh. Foren. i Kjöbenhavn, 1903, pp. 61-110, tab. 1.]

In this well-arranged memoir the author has put together a summary of what is at present known concerning the fossil birds of Denmark, which, though numerous, are all from the most recent formations. Altogether bones belonging to 65 species are recognised, nearly all of which are members of the existing avifauna. A left humerus, found by Steenstrup in 1854 in Ordrup Moss, near Christiansholm, appears to belong to one of the smaller species of *Æstrelata*. It is described and figured, along with corresponding bones of other Petrels for comparison. Many bones of *Alca impennis* are registered from various localities. A portion of a sternum of *Pelecanus crispus* is attributed to the Older Stone-age, so that the Polican certainly visited Denmark in former days.

XLIV.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRS,—In 'The Ibis' for 1897, pp. 364-5, I wrote an article on the nesting of *Cassicus persicus* and other birds of the Lower Amazon. I there stated that the Japu (*Ostinops*